

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 02930 270749Z

12-S

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-03 INR-07 CIAE-00 NSC-05

L-02 H-02 OES-03 EB-07 PRS-01 /057 W

----- 067733

R 270630Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1027

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSBY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 2930

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, IZ, SY, SA

SUBJECT: YAMANI TO MEDIATE EUPHRATES WATER PROBLEM

REF: A. JIDDA 2879 (NOTAL); B. BAGHDAD 440; C. CAIRO 4030;
D. JIDDA 2929

1. ACCORDING TO CROWN PRINCE FAHD, THE RIYADH
MINI-SUMMIT WAS SO SUCCESSFUL (REF A) THAT PRESI-
DENT ASAD ASKED IF THE SAUDIS COULD MEDIATE BETWEEN
IRAQ AND SYRIA ON THE EUPHRATES WATER ISSUE (REFS B
& C). FAHD AGREED AND IS SENDING AHMAD ZAKI YAMANI
MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, THIS AFTERNOON (APRIL 26)
TO BAGHDAD. YAMANI WILL THEN GO TO DAMASCUS AND
PROBABLY BACK TO BAGHDAD. (SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY IS
CATCHING.)

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2. YAMANI TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THIS AFTERNOON THAT THE SAUDIS THOUGHT THE REQUEST WAS PARTICULARLY UNUSUAL: A MONARCHY WHICH HAS BEEN REGULARLY REVILED BY THE BAATH PARTY, AND BY ITS IRAQI BRANCH AS RECENTLY AS TWO MONTHS AGO - MEDIATING BETWEEN TWO BRANCHES OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY. HOWEVER, YAMANI AGREED WITH FAHD THAT THE EFFORT MIGHT DO SOME GOOD.

3. WHEN ASKED IF THIS VENTURE INTO STRAIGHT DIPLOMACY MIGHT NOT BE RESENTED BY PRINCE SAUD, THE NEW MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, YAMANI TOLD THE AMBASSADOR HE WAS SURE IT WOULD NOT. HIS RELATIONS WITH SAUD WERE EXCELLENT, HE SAID; AND SAUD WOULD UNDERSTAND. FURTHERMORE, PRINCE FAHD HAD SUGGESTED YAMANI AS THE MEDIATOR AND THE SYRIANS AND IRAQIS ACCEPTED IMMEDIATELY.

4. COMMENT: YAMANI IS PROBABLY THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEDIATOR THE SAUDIS COULD FIELD. BUT WE ARE NOT NEARLY AS CERTAIN AS YAMANI SEEMS TO BE THAT PRINCE SAUDI WILL ACCEPT WITH EQUANIMITY THIS OBVIOUS USURPATION OF HIS NATURAL ROLE.
AKINS

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NNN

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